

**TRANSLATION**

**PATENT COOPERATION TREATY**

**PCT**

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY**

(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

|  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| Applicant's or agent's file reference<br><b>PC-9310</b>  | <b>FOR FURTHER ACTION</b>                                       | See Form PCT/IPEA/416                               |
| International application No.<br><b>PCT/JP2004/014286</b>  | International filing date (day/month/year)<br><b>22.09.2004</b> | Priority date (day/month/year)<br><b>24.09.2003</b> |
| International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC<br><b>C22C38/00, 38/06, 38/54, C21D9/46</b> |   |   |
| Applicant<br><b>NIPPON STEEL CORPORATION</b>   |   |   |

|  |
|--|
| 1. This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.   |
| 2. This REPORT consists of a total of <u>4</u> sheets, including this cover sheet.   |
| 3. This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising:<br>a. <input type="checkbox"/> (sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau) a total of _____ sheets, as follows:<br><input type="checkbox"/> sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions).<br><input type="checkbox"/> sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box.<br>b. <input type="checkbox"/> (sent to the International Bureau only) a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) _____, containing a sequence listing and/or tables related thereto, in computer readable form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions). |
| 4. This report contains indications relating to the following items:<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. I Basis of the report<br><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. II Priority<br><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability<br><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement<br><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VI Certain documents cited<br><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application<br><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application   |

|   |                                   |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| Date of submission of the demand        | Date of completion of this report |
| Name and mailing address of the IPEA/JP | Authorized officer                |
| Facsimile No.                           | Telephone No.                     |

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/JP2004/014286

Box No. I Basis of the report

1. With regard to the language, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

- ☐ This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language \_\_\_\_\_, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:
- ☐ international search (Rule 12.3 and 23.1(b))
  - ☐ publication of the international application (Rule 12.4)
  - ☐ international preliminary examination (Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3)

2. With regard to the elements of the international application, this report is based on (*replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report*):

- ☒ the international application as originally filed/furnished
- ☐ the description:

pages \_\_\_\_\_ as originally filed/furnished

pages\* \_\_\_\_\_ received by this Authority on \_\_\_\_\_

pages\* \_\_\_\_\_ received by this Authority on \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ the claims:
- nos. \_\_\_\_\_ as originally filed/furnished

nos.\* \_\_\_\_\_ as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19

nos.\* \_\_\_\_\_ received by this Authority on \_\_\_\_\_

nos.\* \_\_\_\_\_ received by this Authority on \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ the drawings:
- sheets \_\_\_\_\_ as originally filed/furnished

sheets\* \_\_\_\_\_ received by this Authority on \_\_\_\_\_

sheets\* \_\_\_\_\_ received by this Authority on \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) – see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.

3. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

☐ the description, pages \_\_\_\_\_

☐ the claims, nos. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ the drawings, sheets/figs \_\_\_\_\_

☐ the sequence listing (*specify*): \_\_\_\_\_

☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*): \_\_\_\_\_

4. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).

☐ the description, pages \_\_\_\_\_

☐ the claims, nos. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ the drawings, sheets/figs \_\_\_\_\_

☐ the sequence listing (*specify*): \_\_\_\_\_

☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*): \_\_\_\_\_

\* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."

## INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/JP2004/014286

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

## 1. Statement

|                               |        |      |     |
|-------------------------------|--------|------|-----|
| Novelty (N)                   | Claims | 5-10 | YES |
|                               | Claims | 1-4  | NO  |
| Inventive step (IS)           | Claims | 5-10 | YES |
|                               | Claims | 1-4  | NO  |
| Industrial applicability (IA) | Claims | 1-10 | YES |
|                               | Claims |      | NO  |

## 2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)

Document 1: JP 2001-303186 A (Nippon Steel Corp.), 31  
October 2001, claims and examples & EP  
1201780 A1 & KR 2022639 A & US 6589369 B2 &  
WO 01/81640 A1

## Claims 1 to 4

The inventions set forth in claims 1 to 4 lack novelty in the light of document 1 cited in the international search report. Document 1 does not disclose the hardness ratio of the steel sheet. However, the composition of the steel sheet includes martensite and a polygonal ferrite (in the light of the fact that the term "ferrite" conventionally signifies a "polygonal ferrite," as is indicated in paragraph [0037] of the document JP 2001-335889 A), and thus the hardness ratio of the steel sheet that is disclosed in document 1 can be considered to fall within the range of hardness ratios which is set forth in the present application. In addition, it is possible to galvanize the steel sheet, as necessary.

## Claims 5 to 10

The inventions set forth in claims 5 to 10 are not disclosed in any of the documents that are cited in the

## INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/JP2004/014286

Box No. V

Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability;  
citations and explanations supporting such statement

international search report; therefore, the inventions in question are novel. Furthermore, it would not have been easy to conceive of the features that are set forth in the abovementioned claims, even for a person skilled in the art.